

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
Serial No. 09/776,329  
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IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**PATENT APPLICATION**

Applicant: **Seutter, et al.**

Case: **AMAT/5192/ISM/CIDRE/MCVD/S**

Serial No.: **09/776,329**

Filed: **February 2, 2001**

Examiner: **Thomas, T.**

Group Art Unit: **2822**

Confirmation No.: **9575**

Title: **FORMATION OF A TANTALUM-NITRIDE LAYER**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JULY 31, 2003**

In response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 30, 2003, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remark /Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.

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